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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 5 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 22 and 31 August 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 22-31 August 1999

1. In the northern region 72 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil, Zakho, Baibo, Ayn Zalah, Tall Kayf, Sinjar, Rawanduz and Ba'shiqah.

2. In the southern region 126 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Amarah, Artawi, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Lasaf, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Qala't Sukkar, Rifa'i, Ushbayjah, Shinafiyah, Qadisiyah, Ali al-Sharqi, Hayy, Hawr al-Hammar, Maymunah, Rumaythah, Taqtaqanah, Shu'aybah, Najaf, Shatrah, Ansab and Umm Qasr.

3. At 1035 hours on 23 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS command and control aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions and overflew the Amadiyah, Zakho, Mosul, Dohuk, Irbil, Aqrah and Dukan areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

4. At 0820 hours on 23 August 1999 United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 2 missions from Saudi airspace, from where they were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft, and overflew the Salman and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0920 hours, drove them off.

5. At 1104 hours on 23 August 1999 United States and British aircraft bombed the Ba'shiqah area of Mosul Governorate in northern Iraq, killing two residents and wounding another.

6. At 1130 hours on 24 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions and overflew the Rawanduz, Dohuk, Mosul, Tall Afar, Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Baibo and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

7. At 0740 hours on 24 August 1999 United States and British F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions from Saudi airspace with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating from there, and they overflew the Salman, Ushbayjah, Shinafiyah and Nasiriyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1010 hours, drove them off.

8. At 1000 hours on 25 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions and overflew the Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Baibo, Amadiyah, Zakho, Rawanduz and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

9. At 0650 hours on 25 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 6 from Kuwaiti airspace and 16 from Saudi airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi territory and an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti territory and overflew the Ushbayjah, Hayy, Artawi, Hawr al-Hammar, Jalibah, Qal'at Sukkar, Rifa'i, Rumaythah, Samawah, Kut, Aziziyah, Afak, Shaykh Sa'd, Diwaniyah, Ali al-Gharbi, Badrah and Jassan areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2135 hours, drove them off.

10. At 0655 hours on 26 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, 14 from Kuwaiti airspace and 2 from Saudi airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi territory and an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti territory and overflew the Ushbayjah, Lasaf, Busayyah, Artawi, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Samawah, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Nasiriyah, Suq al-Shuyukh, Amarah and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1015 hours, drove them off.

11. At 0700 hours on 28 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions from Saudi airspace, from where they were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft, and they overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Shinafiyah, Salman, Ushbayjah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1055 hours, drove them off.

12. At 1035 hours on 28 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions and overflew the Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Baibo, Amadiyah, Zakho, Rawanduz, Mosul and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

13. At 0717 hours on 29 August 1999 United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions and overflew the Busayyah, Salman, Ushbayjah, Lasaf and Artawi-south areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1105 hours, drove them off.

14. At 0650 hours on 30 August 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 32 missions, 24 from Saudi airspace and 8 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi territory and an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti territory and overflew the Lasaf, Artawi, Basrah, Salman, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Busayyah, Jalibah, Rifa'i and Suq al-Shuyukh areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1030 hours, drove them off.